

REMARKS

I. Election of Claims

Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required an election of a Group of the invention as follows:

Group I. Claims 1-4

Group II. Claims 5-13, 28-35, 36-50

Group III. Claims 14-27

The Applicants hereby elects Group II. Therefore, claims 5-13, 28-35, and 36-50 remain pending in the application.

II. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert L. Villhard, Reg. 53,725
Thompson Coburn LLP
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Telephone: (314) 552-6293
Fax: 314-552-7293